



**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI**

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July 15, 2003

PRESS RELEASE

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Central Maui residents asked to conserve water

Due to forecasted dry weather conditions and high pumping from groundwater aquifers, **Central Maui residents are asked to voluntarily conserve water.** The affected areas include Kahului, Wailuku, Kihei, Wailea, Makena, Waihee, Waiehu, Maalaea, Waikapu, Spreckelsville and Paia. Draws from the Iao and Waihee Aquifers have been very high for April, May, and June of this year. The recent rains have been helpful in reducing consumption in the short-term but the Department of Water Supply is concerned about the upcoming months, which usually show high pumping rates.

According to the Hawaii State Commission on Water Resource Management, the sustainable yield for the Iao Aquifer is 20 million gallons per day (MGD), and the sustainable yield for Waihee Aquifer is 8 MGD. These numbers are defined as the maximum rate at which water may be withdrawn from a water source without impairing the utility or quality of the water source as determined by the Commission.

The sustainable yield is a 12-month moving average, which means the monthly average for the previous 12-month period. It takes into consideration the seasonal highs and lows of water consumption.

While the 12-month moving average for both aquifers are currently at safe levels, monthly pumping from the two aquifers has been high. With NOAA's prediction of drought conditions through

November, the DWS is concerned that these high levels may continue into the summer, causing the moving averages to increase to levels that could adversely impact the long-term health of the aquifers.

Monthly Pumping (in 1000 gallons):

Aquifer	April 2003	May 2003	June 2003	Moving average
Iao	18,440	19,054	19,445	18,063
Waihee	3,727	4,097	6,233	4,536

In December 2002, the DWS began filtering water from the Iao-Waikapu Ditch to supplement the groundwater system. The Iao Water Treatment Facility provides about 1.5 MGD of surface water to the Central System. The DWS is also working on the plans for the Waikapu Well and a well north of Waihee, which should help spread the pumping over a larger area.

To help conserve water, consumers should check in and around homes for leaks, use water conservatively, and install water saving devices where possible. Suggested conservation methods include not washing cars, irrigating lawns or filling storage tanks or reservoirs. Decreasing outdoor water use by irrigating two or three times a week instead of more frequently and only between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. are simple yet significant ways to reduce water consumption.

Free low-flow showerheads and leak detection dye tablets for toilets are available on the 5th floor of the Kalana O Maui building in Wailuku. For more information on how to save water, contact the Department of Water Supply at 270-7199. To report leaks in the water system, please call 270-7633.

More information about the water and the Iao Aquifer is available at the DWS web site www.mauiwater.org and the USGS web site <http://hi.water.usgs.gov/>.

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By Water All Things Find Life